

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR (Arctic)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Restriction of Western Shipping near Novaya Zemlya Island	DATE DISTR.	2 December 1955
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. It would appear that the Soviet authorities were anxious to keep Western shipping out of the Kara Straits and the sea area off Novaya Zemlya Island. The reason which was given by the Soviets was the danger of floating mines.

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approximately 160 miles west of the Yugorskiy Strait, a Soviet destroyer approached the ship to within about 20 yards; her guns appeared to be fully manned. The destroyer, which seemed a very modern ship, had a single oval shaped funnel, with the top higher at the front than the back, placed just aft of the bridge. It was about 320 feet long, had a pronounced sheer forward. There was one short, stump mast with yardarms between the funnel and the bridge, which was situated slightly forward of amidships. There were two gun mounts in the forward part of the ship, each consisting of a single gun

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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mounted in a gun shield, and an antiaircraft gun fitted onto a revolving base aft. No torpedo tubes or mine launching equipment was observed. Well up the mast there was an antenna in the form of a cage about three feet square. There were also two thin rods, resembling car radio aerials, one on the bridge and the other aft, above the antiaircraft gun. The ship was painted medium grey. It was flying a red flag with two small emblems in the middle, not hammer and sickle, and appeared to be ready for action. A number of the crew were on deck. The destroyer ordered the Western ship to steer in a southwesterly direction, "because of the danger of floating mines."

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